

OUT OF

THE ASHES



In view of the paramount importance of the war of Europe against the USSR, we have devoted much space in the pages of our magazine to the war itself as well as to conditions within the Soviet Union. Here we present a study based on material, collected since the start of the war, dealing with the developments in those areas which have been freed from Bolshevism.

Construction is always less spectacular than war. The work that has been done for the reconstruction of Eastern Europe has, therefore, up till now received less attention than is deserved by its results and its importance for the future of Europe. — K.M.

“WHILE the German armies are continuing their war against Bolshevism until its final annihilation, the areas liberated from this system, which mocks at all European culture and civilization, are being placed on a new administrative basis. The territories which are thus incorporated into the continental union of Europe are thereby being given their natural tasks, tasks which they were hitherto prevented from fulfilling.”

So wrote the *Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz* in Berlin on the occasion of the establishment of the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories and the Reich Commissariats of Ostland and the Ukraine on November 17, 1941.

“A work has been undertaken that, for the future of the world in general and Europe in particular, will be hardly less epoch-making than was once the opening up of new continents through European energy,” the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* added.

SCORCHED EARTH AND SCORCHED MINDS

In order to visualize the difficulties which stood in the way of carrying out this plan, one must bear in mind the situation of Eastern Europe at that time. In the decades of their rule and especially while retreating from these areas, the

Bolsheviks had done everything in their power to create such conditions as to make the peoples of Eastern Europe unable to co-operate with Germany. When the Red Army withdrew, it intentionally left behind a state of ruin, the extent of which can only be conceived by eyewitnesses; it left behind the horrible picture of want, suffering, destruction, and death.

The Bolsheviks called this the “scorched-earth” policy. They systematically destroyed and burned down factories, homes, and agricultural premises. They took all the bread they could lay their hands on and led off the cattle. They took away nearly all agricultural machinery and tools, or rendered them useless. In this way, the urban population was left without light, water, bread, or meat, and in the villages the peasants had nothing but the scorched earth. Moreover, the Bolsheviks carried off a large part of the population in order to render the work of reconstruction even more difficult.

To this must be added difficulties of a psychological nature. Count Stamati, a shrewd observer of conditions in Russia, wrote:

The astonishing advance of the Germans . . . and the ensuing collapse of the Soviet administration have created an entirely new psychological situation for the population of the occupied areas.

The collapse of the regime, which had deeply affected every detail of family life and working methods, first resulted in a spiritual vacuum (DNB, 7.7.42).

PEELING OFF THE RED PAINT

These were the conditions which the German civil administration of the occupied areas of Eastern Europe, headed by the Reich Ministry under Alfred Rosenberg, undertook to master.

In order to understand the procedure of the German authorities in Eastern Europe, one must remember that these regions, although they appear on the political map all under the same color, since politically they all belonged to the Soviet Union, are inhabited by a number of ethnographically quite different peoples. After the Red paint had disappeared as a result of the advance of the victorious European armies, the German administration was faced with a great variety of human and national characters amongst the native population.

From an economic point of view, the vast areas of Eastern Europe did not show a uniform appearance either, in spite of the years of effort on the part of the Bolsheviki to make everything alike. The various parts of liberated Eastern Europe have varying economic problems, and their outward economic uniformity had been artificially created by the Bolsheviki by enforcing their own unnatural laws through the introduction of collectives and State ownership of industry, trade, and commerce.

TWO GREAT TERRITORIES

From the very outset of the process of reconstruction, the Germans took these conditions into account. The entire region was divided into two great sections—the Reich Commissariat of Ostland and the Reich Commissariat of the Ukraine. All occupied areas of Eastern Europe are under the supreme authority of Reich Minister Alfred Rosenberg. The actual administration, however, is in the hands of the Reich Commissioner for Ostland, Heinrich Lohse, and the Reich Commissioner for the Ukraine, Erich Koch.

The Reich Commissariat of Ostland includes those countries of the northern part of Eastern Europe which form a historical as well as economic unity. They are the former Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—and White Ruthenia. These countries are Districts General of the Reich Commissariat of Ostland. The ad-



This map is based on reports from Europe and shows the approximate present borders in Eastern Europe. It lays no claim to absolute correctness, since no accurate data regarding the frontiers are available here. All towns shown are administrative centers.

ministrations of the Districts General are headed by Commissioners General. Hence there are four Commissioners General in Ostland under Reich Commissioner Lohse: the Commissioners General for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and White Ruthenia.

The Reich Commissariat of the Ukraine includes almost all those regions which are inhabited en bloc by Ukrainians. It, too, is divided up into several Districts General headed by Commissioners General. At present, the following Districts General are mentioned in the reports of German news agencies: Volhynia

(Rovno), Jitomir, Kiev, Dniepropetrovsk, Crimea (Kherson), and Nikolayev. This seems to indicate that the areas close to the front, such as Kharkov and Donets, have not yet been handed over to civil administration.

Several West Ukrainian areas (Eastern Galicia, Kholmmland, and Podlechia) are not part of the Reich Commissariat of the Ukraine but have been included in the General Gouvernement (formerly Poland). Galicia is one of the five districts of the General Gouvernement. The other four are Warsaw, Radom, Lublin, Cracow. Kholmmland and Podlechia are included in the district of Lublin. The General Gouvernement is not under Minister Rosenberg but under Dr. Frick, Reich Minister of the Interior.

In the course of the war, many parts of the truly ethnographical Russian territory have also been freed from Bolshevik rule, and in the summer of 1942 the Don and northern Caucasian areas were added. These territories, however, are still under military administration.

THE BALTIC STATES

Among all occupied areas of Eastern Europe, the first three Districts General of the Reich Commissariat of Ostland, that is to say, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, hold a special position. First of all, these countries were enslaved by Bolshevism for a short time only—about a year; and secondly, the destiny of these nations has for centuries been bound up with the fortunes of the German people. Although the Bolsheviks inflicted deep wounds on these peoples during the year from 1940 to 1941, they did not succeed in that short time in carrying out the same immeasurable spiritual and material devastation as everywhere else. Hence it is not surprising that as early as March 18, 1942, the Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, Alfred Rosenberg, decreed an autonomous national administration for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which represents and guarantees "the self-responsible co-operation of the countries' authorities."

"We have avoided treating the whole of Ostland according to one pattern, and we have tried to take the special conditions in each General District into account," declared Reich Commissioner Lohse in an interview given in Riga in July 1942 to a representative of the local newspaper *Tevija*. And, according to a decree issued by Reich Minister Rosenberg in July 1942, the powers of the Commissioners General in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are much wider than elsewhere.

From an economic point of view, too, conditions in the former Baltic Free States are different from those in White Ruthenia and in the Ukraine. Of course, Bolshevik devastation was also great here. According to a declaration by Dr. Mall, head of the Estonian administration, for instance, the little country of Estonia lost 60,911 citizens who were carried off by the Bolsheviks. Estonian towns lost no less than 32 per cent of their population; 6,172 buildings were destroyed, and all important industrial establishments were totally or partially demolished. 70 per cent of railway rolling stock disappeared, and Estonian agriculture lost 25 per cent of its horses, 31 per cent of its cattle, 29 per cent of its hogs, and 40 per cent of its sheep (TO, 4.1.42).

NEW OUTPOSTS OF EUROPE

Nevertheless, conditions in the three Baltic Districts General are quite different from those in White Ruthenia or in the Ukraine. Although the collectivization of agriculture and the State ownership of industry during the one year of Red rule had harmful effects, they did not have any lasting consequences. The old owners of the land are still there, and the borders of the individual farms of the peasants can be comparatively easily re-established. As a result, the land taken away from the peasants by the Bolsheviks was given back to them with the necessary implements for individual farming.

In the same way, the trades and minor industries which had been robbed

of their establishments through Bolshevization once more obtained the ownership of their means of production and their stocks; while retail traders were given back the ownership of their inventory and their stocks.

For the purpose of regulating conditions in the large industrial concerns, as well as for a basic reform of the economic structure, a Chamber of Economy has been founded in Riga which, with its organizations throughout Ostland, forms the head of the economic self-administration. For, in contrast to the equalizing industrialization of the Bolshevik system, the principle of the German leadership is to awaken and encourage personal, responsible initiative in all spheres of economic life.

At the same time, Reich Commissioner Lohse in Riga has decreed the establishment of a Scientific Council for Ostland. This council is to aid in increasing the efficiency of the economic system of Ostland by a systematic co-ordination of all economic resources. In order to cope with the problem of running those concerns hitherto owned by public bodies, and for administering in trust the entire agricultural property of Ostland, the "*Landbewirtschaftungs-Gesellschaft Ostland*" (Land Cultivation Company of Ostland) has been organized (29.7.42). Furthermore, a Bureau for Organizing the Distribution of Land has been established in the offices of the Reich Commissioner in Riga. Everything is being done to increase the powers of production of those regions, to develop the towns and routes of communication, and to solve problems of settling and of communication.

Steps have also been taken to raise the cultural life of the Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians. Newspapers are published in the native languages, broadcasting stations have been erected, and primary schools, high schools, and colleges have been reopened. Thus the University of Riga and the medical, veterinary, and agricultural departments of the old University of Dorpat are working again. During the summer

of 1942, 6,000 Latvian and Lithuanian teachers participated in training camps lasting six weeks each.

In the shadow of the ruined castles of the German Knights, surrounded by the atmosphere of centuries of German history on the Baltic, proud of their past and of their new great task, the Germans are building an outpost of Europe here in close co-operation with Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians.

WHITE RUTHENIA

Far more difficult than in the Baltic States, which were only temporarily under Bolshevik influence, are the conditions in White Ruthenia, the fourth District General of the Reich Commissariat of Ostland, which bears all the marks of twenty-five years of Bolshevik terror.

An editorial in the White Ruthenian paper in Vilna tells us what the White Ruthenian people considers to be its task:

"Our national existence must now make its appearance again in the great new European family. Never again shall we subject ourselves to the old Tsarist conditions. Never again shall we permit the democratic Polish regime in our country; and never shall we forget the Jewish-Bolshevik tyranny that we have experienced for twenty-five years. It is only under the protection of the German nation that we can advance towards a happy future." (DNB, April 1942.)

For centuries, White Ruthenia had been a forgotten country, a country of sadness and poverty. But even this country has had its own rich history. The relationship between the destiny of White Ruthenia and that of the Baltic in general and Lithuania in particular dates from the days of the Lithuanian-Ruthenian State (11th to 14th century), whose culture was mainly of White Ruthenian origin, and its present renaissance links up the White Ruthenian people with the traditions of the Lithuanian-Ruthenian period.

White Ruthenia has great possibilities for its future development as the supplier of foodstuffs and raw materials for the market of Central Europe. To its timber export—it is the richest timber area of the entire Eastern regions—will be added

the local manufacture of timber products. Before this can take place, a proper forest cultivation must be organized in order to let the forests recover which were devastated by merciless Bolshevik and Polish exploitation. In White Ruthenia there are 1.7 acres of forest surface per head of population, in Germany not more than 0.5.

The most important step for the rehabilitation of White Ruthenia was the new Agricultural Order proclaimed by the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories on February 26, 1942, with which we shall deal in connection with the Ukraine. Four months later, on June 26, 1942, Gauleiter Kube, the Commissioner General for White Ruthenia, was already able to report that the redistribution of the *kolkhozes* in this area was practically complete. The German Government has helped the farmers, who were now freed from the fetters of the *kolkhoz*, by supplying them with plows, reaping machines, and tractors in large numbers.

Important work is being done in the field of culture, and the national rebirth of the people is being furthered. In the schools that have been reopened, instruction is once again being given in the White Ruthenian language. The population appreciates this, and in places where it has not yet been possible to open schools it has placed private houses at the disposal of the German administration for use as school buildings (DNB, 28.5.42).

THE GRANARY OF EUROPE

Of all territories, it is the Ukraine which has the greatest importance for the work of reconstruction in the occupied Eastern areas, for the reconquest and reorganization of all these vast regions for Europe. The Ukraine has almost three times the population of Ostland, and its area is also much larger. Moreover, the Ukraine, more than any other territory in the Eastern areas or even in all Europe, is a rich country blessed with all the treasures of the earth. Consequently, the liberation of the Ukraine is not only a heavy blow to

Bolshevism but also a great gain to the whole of the new Europe. The reincorporation of this country into Europe required a total reorganization of all spheres of life.

In no other country have there ever been such possibilities for agricultural yield—and nowhere else in Europe did the soil yield so little. Since the Ukraine is always spoken of as the “granary of Europe,” one is surprised to hear that the average yield per acre in Holland was 7 tons and in the Ukraine only 2.2 tons.

The most fertile soil of Europe, the “black earth” of the Ukraine, had also had the most industrious peasants, whose love for their own plots of ground and whose diligence and endurance were known throughout Eastern Europe for centuries. But, thanks to the collectivist experiments of Bolshevism, this people had lost its intimate contact with the soil and had been degraded to a proletariat without roots. Hence, if the agricultural yield was to be increased and the population once more to be given a stimulus for industrious work, the collective order had to be abolished.

REPLACING THE COLLECTIVES

This was the task undertaken by the new Agricultural Order of February 26, 1942.

The collective farm, known as *kolkhoz*, was a kind of factory in which the workers participated in the production by carrying out certain prescribed actions, while individual farming demands that the farmer possesses exact knowledge and training for carrying out the entire process of agricultural production from sowing the seed to selling the grain. Consequently, the large mass of the *kolkhoz* workers had already forgotten or never learnt how to be real farmers. Moreover, in the conditions left behind by the Bolsheviks, they had no tools for working the soil on their own; they had neither plows nor scythes, neither horses nor seed.

To these difficulties was added the problem: according to what principles

was the redistribution of the *kolkhozes* to be effected; when and how was the land-surveying to be carried out; who was to be given the agricultural ground, and how much of it? The problem of just distribution of the soil has always been one of the most difficult and pregnant questions of agrarian policy. A blunder was liable to have extremely harmful effects on the entire work of reconstruction. Moscow was only waiting for such a blunder.

But work had to be started immediately. There was no time for waiting, either for the German administration, which was responsible for supplying the German Army and the hinterland of the front, or for the Ukrainian people, which was on the verge of starvation. Thus it was a matter of introducing a new order immediately, but of doing the work itself calmly and methodically. The agricultural reform is characterized by this double task.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

The *kolkhoz* was replaced by the "agricultural community." It distributes the land to the individual farmers. It sees to the obtaining of the necessary agricultural implements and machines and to their correct employment. The farmers are not yet the owners of the soil; they work on the plots assigned to them.

The agricultural community is the first step towards individual farming. It depends on the peasants how long this period of transition will last. The better they work, the shorter will be the road to individual farming. But in order that they can prove their efficiency now, they are given up to two and a half acres of farmland. This land is their private property. If they show that they can cultivate this land, its area is increased, and finally they are given the ownership rights of that land which they have cultivated communally.

But whence does the community obtain its agricultural machinery and implements; who supplies them with seed; who controls its activities? For this purpose,

"agricultural bases" have been established. These agricultural bases serve from eight to twelve communities and supply them with all their needs.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES

The road from the former *kolkhoz* worker to the free, independent farmer can be shortened considerably, especially in the Ukraine, by the transition from communal farming to co-operative farming. In contrast to the Russians, who lived for centuries in the tradition of submission to the *mir*, the village community, the Ukrainian peasant was not acquainted with this method of farming. On the one hand, he wants to be master of his own farm; on the other, he likes to work in co-operation with others who are, like him, "masters of their own fate." This explains why co-operatives were more widespread in the Ukraine than anywhere else.

This characteristic of the Ukrainian peasant was made full use of in the Agricultural Order in the form of "agricultural co-operatives." A village community that has proved its ability is reorganized into an agricultural co-operative. As members of such a co-operative, the farmers become the owners of their land. But the agricultural machinery belongs to the co-operative. Every member has the right to use these machines in proportion to his *pai* (share), which corresponds to the size of his farm. In this way, every farmer is enabled to make use of tractors and combines which he is not in a position to buy himself. It is possible that the agricultural co-operatives will become a permanent institution, which would have a great future in this country.

Senseless as it may seem in the face of these developments, Soviet propaganda still persists in trying to make out that the new Agricultural Order is leading to the restoration of the large landowners of Tsarist days. Berlin has repeatedly refuted this claim, as, for instance, on July 1, 1942:

If Moscow now claims that Germany is endeavoring to restore the conditions of Tsarist Russia,

this is pure nonsense. A profound revolution has arisen in the territories of the former Russian Empire, and it would be nothing but madness to try to re-establish the old order. With the aid of German industry and agriculture, all harmful manifestations of the Bolshevik system are being removed, and a new, healthy order is being created (Dusha, Berlin, 1.7.42).

EARLY RESULTS

The agricultural reform was not only a test for the healthy instincts of the White Ruthenian and Ukrainian people and of its sincere desire to rehabilitate its country. It was also a test for the German administration, its capability and its understanding of Eastern European conditions. Both parties have stood the test.

As early as in the winter of 1941/42, immediately after the Bolsheviks had been driven out, the work of enlightenment among the peasants and the preparations for the work of spring sowing was begun. The snow had not yet thawed on the fields of the Ukraine when the population in the areas liberated from Bolshevism began spring cultivation. From all sides came reports of the good progress made in the fields. In view of such successful work, the German administration decided to speed up the distribution of land.

The first agricultural co-operative was established near Kiev. Others followed. The first distribution of land took place as early as the beginning of May 1942. Considerably fortified in their hopes for the future by the new Agricultural Order, the peasants of Eastern Europe went to work with exceptional diligence, with the result that Erich Koch, the Reich Commissioner for the Ukraine, was able to write in the *Deutsche Zeitung der Ukraine* (DNB, 20.8.42):

The greatest difficulties had to be surmounted in the sphere of agriculture, where work had to be started quickly. Everything depended on spring plowing, for which weather conditions were not everywhere favorable. There was a lack of almost everything, of tractors for wide areas, of oil for diesel engines, and of horses and vehicles.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Ukrainian population, ninety per cent of the acreage could be worked which had formerly been cultivated by the Bolsheviks. Even optimists had scarcely believed such a result to be possible.

OBSTACLES OVERCOME

In order properly to understand the significance of these words, one must bear in mind that:

(1) the greater part of tractors and other agricultural machinery had been destroyed or carried off by the Red Army;

(2) collective farming possessed few of the agricultural implements needed for individual farming;

(3) approximately five million Ukrainians had been carried off into other parts of the Soviet Union, and some districts of the Ukraine, especially the fertile steppe country, had been depopulated;

(4) very little seed was available;

(5) Bolshevik agents did everything in their power to counteract the reconstruction of the Ukraine.

Not only the peoples of Eastern Europe, but the German administration, too, can be proud of the success of the spring cultivation of 1942. For it was not only material and fuel that determined this success: it was the excellent organization, the functioning of the German management down to the last district farmer and agricultural base, which must be able to distribute and decide, regulate and improvise, entirely on its own. In order to create new order out of the existing chaos, a great deal depended on these German pioneers who, through their self-sacrificing labors in the most remote corners, had to reconquer the Eastern areas for Europe.

Only thus has it become possible that "often twenty trains per day loaded with foodstuffs leave for the West" (DNB, 16.10.42); and that Reich Marshal Hermann Goering in his speech of October 4, 1942, could report to the German people that its food-supply situation had been assured.

FUTURE POTENTIALITIES

Yet the importance of the work of reconstruction in the Ukraine cannot be entirely grasped until one realizes that

the soil there hides vast, untapped reserves. While in Germany in the years 1935/38 an average of 47 hundredweights of winter wheat, 44.4 hundredweights of summer wheat, and 34.8 hundredweights of rye were harvested per hectare, the corresponding figures in the Ukraine were only 28.6, 15.2, and 24 hundredweights.

An increase of no more than 15 to 20 per cent in the average yield is necessary to make the Ukraine truly the granary of the continent; even then the average yields would still be some 30 per cent below those of Germany. A 20-per-cent increase would provide the following surplus yields: more than 10 million hundredweights of wheat, 14 million of rye, 41 million of potatoes, and 18 million of sugar beets.

And this is true of all other branches of agriculture in the Ukraine. Its steppes, for instance, offer the most favorable prospects for developing sheep-raising. But who would have thought of such a thing formerly? Today, there is a great migration of sheep underway to the Ukraine. "The Department for Food Supply and Agriculture in the offices of the Reich Commissioner for the Ukraine has bought up large quantities of sheep from the peasants in Volhynia and will start to drive these herds to the south within the next few days. All in all, there are 100 herds of 500 sheep each, which, accompanied by 1,500 men, will be sent off on their journey of about 1,000 kilometers." (DNB, 25.6.42.)

THE NETHERLANDS EAST COMPANY

An interesting development in the reopening of Eastern Europe for the rest of the Continent is the "*Nederlandsche Oost Compagnie*" (Netherlands East Company), founded in June 1942, which includes all those circles in agriculture, industry, trade, and commerce, which are interested in activities in Eastern Europe. This company regulates the employment of farmers, skilled workers, and firms. On a government farm near Vilna and in a training center near Rovno as well as in various training

centers in the Netherlands, young Hollanders receive instruction in agriculture, management, bookkeeping, and the German and Russian languages. In the very near future, Netherland firms from the fields of construction and the wood-working industry will be employed in the East. Negotiations for the employment of paper and textile factories as well as firms of the chemical industry and many other branches of industry are underway. It is also proposed to make use of Dutch experience in the cultivation of tea, tobacco, cotton, and oil seed. A Dutch East Shipping Company, which disposes of a number of ships, is already working, and the appearance of Dutch ships on the rivers of Eastern Europe can also be predicted.

INDUSTRY RETURNS TO NORMAL

In their efforts to place as many obstacles as possible in the way of a return to normalcy in their lost territories, the Bolsheviks carried out a thorough devastation of all industrial concerns. The plants were partially demolished and most of the machines carried away. Nevertheless, a large and constantly growing number of industrial plants have been set going again, in part through the necessary machines having been found or repaired, and in part through new machinery having been brought there. The restored industrial concerns are headed by those of the food industry (abattoirs, bakeries, cereal factories, and canning factories) and of the consumption industry, whose production for the moment is adjusted mainly to the requirements of the troops.

In the Donets basin, more than 300 coal mines had been worked. However, when the German troops liberated this territory, they found almost all the mines destroyed. But meanwhile many of them have already been restored and are being worked again, so that in the near future the Ukraine can be expected to produce nearly enough coal for its own needs. The chemical industry of the occupied Eastern territories was hardly touched by the war or by Bolshevik destruction. It is working at top speed

to cover the large requirements. In the textile industry, too, the work of reconstruction is far advanced, and even some new textile factories have been founded. The textile branch can look forward to great possibilities of development in the Ukraine. The silkworms cultivated there are expected to produce considerable quantities of raw silk in 1943.

Special attention is being devoted to the production and repair of agricultural machinery. To the west of the Dniepr, 23 such factories are already working, all under the management of the "*Landmaschinen-Industrie Ukraine GmbH*."

Together with the Ukraine, the Soviets lost 68 per cent of their sugar acreage and about 160 sugar refineries. By now, the cultivation of sugar beets is once more in full swing, and there are 100 refineries working.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

For the reconstruction of Eastern Europe it was necessary to improve communications. By narrowing the gauges of Soviet locomotives and freight cars they can be used on the railway network of all Europe. Tens of thousands of kilometers of tracks and thousands of bridges have been repaired. For repair work, hundreds of workshops are busy in which local skilled workers are employed under German management. Regular daily railway connections have been operating for some time, among them the express connection Berlin/Kiev with two pairs of trains a day covering the distance in twenty-eight hours, as well as Königsberg/Kiev, a journey of the same length.

In the same way, motor roads and river transport are being restored and improved.

EDUCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Parallel to the reconstruction in agriculture and other branches of economics run measures in the field of culture. The educational system is being completely reorganized and the program of instruction adjusted to the new demands and new tasks facing the Ukrainian

population. Ukrainian primary, middle, and high schools, as well as colleges, are being opened everywhere. But, above all, trade and technical schools are being established for young people, such as printers' schools, automobile schools, horticultural schools, and every kind of technical and agricultural school.

The first agricultural college was opened at the end of March 1942 in Jitomir by Commissioner General Klemm. Others were opened in Kiev and Kharkov. Among the 41 professors of the Kharkov college, 32 are Ukrainians. "This agricultural college is at present the largest in all Europe," the Kharkov radio reported on September 11, 1942.

Universities have opened their doors in Lemberg, Odessa, and Dnepropetrovsk. There are also several medical academies and polytechnic institutions working, especially in Kiev. In Lemberg, a new institute for the study of typhus was opened, which is the largest of its kind in the world and, under excellent management, helps to combat this most devastating of all diseases in Eastern Europe. In the course of the opening ceremonies of the new institute, which bears the name of the German physician Behring, a scientific congress took place at which prominent medical research workers from Germany reported on the latest results of their work.

In order to enable the older generation, too, to keep in step with the new developments of education, branches of the cultural-educational society *Prosvita* (Enlightenment) were founded in Lemberg, Kiev, Rovno, Poltava, Kholm, and Dnepropetrovsk.

A CULTURAL REVIVAL

Popular enlightenment is carried on not only by the schools but also by the press and radio. DNB reports that by July 15, 1942, 140 newspapers appeared in the liberated areas of Eastern Europe, 60 of which were printed in Ukrainian. There is a broadcasting station in every large town; in Lemberg, Kharkov, Vinnitsa, and Dnepropetrovsk they also transmit by shortwave, which can be heard as far away as in East Asia.

The theatrical and musical life of the Ukraine has experienced an undreamed-of development. In Kirovograd, for example, a medium-sized town, the theater was visited by 100,000 spectators during its first season. Much attention is devoted to the fostering of music, particularly singing, which, because of the absence of organs in Orthodox churches, plays an important role in religious life. In Kiev a school for choir conductors has been opened, where 2,000 conductors are to be trained.

The Ukrainian people is experiencing its cultural and spiritual revival, whose aim it is "to educate the Ukrainian younger generation in the European spirit, to remove the traces of the Bolshevik heritage from the soul of the people, and to heal the wounds caused by Soviet tyranny," as was expressed by Mrs. Shumovskaya, the representative of the "Organization of Ukrainian Women's Service," in Rovno on the occasion of Ukrainian Mothers' Day.

In this work, the reborn Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, which is fully supported in its activities by the German administration, is of incalculable service to its people. In view of the important part played by religion in the life of the Eastern European peoples, this fact is causing the Kremlin some uneasiness. For this reason, Metropolitan Sergius of Moscow, who is completely

under Soviet influence, appealed to the Patriarchs of the Orthodox Church in the Near East with the request to bring the administrator of the Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, Archbishop Polikarp, to trial and to excommunicate him. Hereupon, Archbishop Polikarp issued the following declaration:

I declare that the Orthodox Church of the Ukraine . . . has never been canonically dependent on Moscow. Therefore, all acts on the part of Metropolitan Sergius regarding the Orthodox Church of the Ukraine are invalid. Metropolitan Sergius and the whole world may know that, after the retreat of the Red Army from the Ukraine, all churches which had been transformed by the Bolsheviks into barns, shops, and clubs have now been handed over again to the religious requirements of the Ukrainian Orthodox population. Under the German administration, the life of the Church is developing freely and without restraint, but in the Church of Metropolitan Sergius it could not fulfill its religious duties. (DNB, 6.5.42.)

This "Back to Europe" is the most important characteristic of the work of spiritual rehabilitation in all the liberated countries of the Eastern territories. It is also expressed in the words of Alfred Rosenberg in his authoritative article printed in the monthly *Ostland* (DNB, 15.7.42).

"The grave political situation demands that everything be done which guarantees that Bolshevism can never again return . . . Not until then, not until all anti-European instincts have been destroyed, will the great era of the reconstruction of Europe for the benefit of all the forces of our old and glorious continent begin."



EVERY noble work is at first impossible.
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